

# opc Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • June 2010

## OPC Gets a Sneak Peak at *A Chance in Hell*

### EVENT PREVIEW: JUNE 15

by Sonya K. Fry

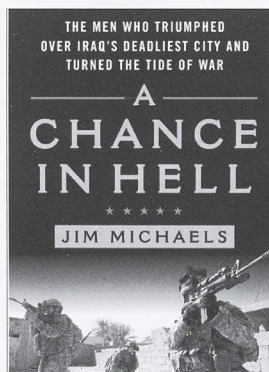
*A Chance in Hell: The Men who Triumphed over Iraq's Deadliest City and Turned the Tide of War* by Jim Michaels will be previewed by the OPC a few weeks before publication. Michaels covers military issues for *USA Today* and has made about 20 reporting trips to Iraq and Afghanistan as well as supervised the paper's six embedded reporters. Michaels is a former Marine Corps infantry officer and he covered the Persian Gulf War for the *San Diego Tribune*.

Ramadi was one of Iraq's most violent cities with al-Qaeda boldly declaring Ramadi its capital. Even the U.S. military acknowledged the province would be the last to be pacified.

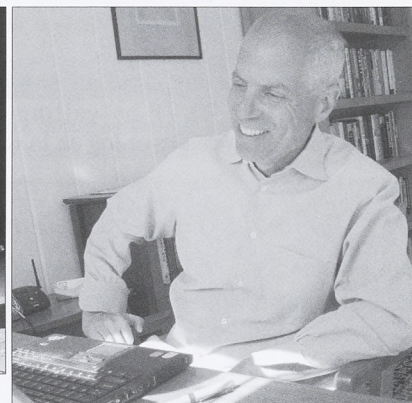
In the spring of 2006 Colonel Sean MacFarland's Army brigade arrived in Ramadi with simple instructions: pacify Ramadi without destroying it. While most of the American military was focused on taming Baghdad, MacFarland laid out a bold plan for Ramadi. His soldiers would take on the insurgents in their own backyard. He set up combat outposts in the city's most dangerous

neighborhoods. U.S. tanks rumbled down the streets, firing point blank into buildings occupied by insurgents.

MacFarland's brigade engaged in some of the bloodiest street fighting of the war. The two sides were at a stalemate when a minor tribal leader, Sheik Abdul Sattar Bezia al-Rishawi entered the picture. The Sheik was a smuggler who carried a large six-shooter on his hip and had a taste for whiskey, but he hated al-Qaeda and was carefully watching the work of



Jim Michaels



MacFarland's soldiers and coming to the conclusion that this was a different group of Americans. Sattar approached MacFarland and said he was ready to join with the Americans and fight al-Qaeda. MacFarland didn't hesitate

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## OPC Sponsors Afghanistan Documentaries

### EVENT PREVIEW: JUNE 12-21

by Sonya K. Fry

In the 21st year of the Human Rights Watch Film Festival, the OPC, through board member Minky Worden, will co-sponsor two films *Camp Victory* and *Restrepo* both about the war in Afghanistan. There will be three screening dates for both movies, beginning on June 12 to 21.

*Camp Victory* explores the reality of building a functioning Afghan military. Filmmaker Carol Dysinger shot nearly 300 hours of verité footage between 2005 and 2008 and she achieved a remarkable intimacy in telling the story of U.S. National Guardsmen stationed in Heart, Afghanistan who are assigned to train Afghan offi-

cers. Although the United States has poured military aid into Afghanistan, money alone does not produce security — people do. Frustrations are evident as are moments of humor as the film vividly exposes the difficulties faced by these men from two very different worlds, as

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*Camp Victory*: Non-commissioned officers in training at Kabul Military Training Center.



## OPC Gets a Sneak Peak at "A Chance in Hell"

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promising Sattar his support.

What followed was one of history's unlikeliest — and most successful — partnerships. Together, the Americans and Sattar's growing band of fighters drove al-Qaeda from Ramadi. This collaboration was later called "the Awakening" and was key to progress in Iraq.

Jim Lehrer of the PBS Newshour said "Ramadi was the place where the Iraq war made its real turn toward success. A group of smart, courageous Americans, mostly Army and Marine officers on the ground, not in Washington — worked with Iraqi tribal leaders to make it happen. It is one helluva story that has been told brilliantly by Jim Michaels."

Join us on **Tuesday, June 15 at 6 p.m.** at Club Quarters, 40 West 45 Street. RSVP by calling 212-626-9220, e-mail [sonya@opcofamerica.org](mailto:sonya@opcofamerica.org) or log on to [www.opcofamerica.org](http://www.opcofamerica.org).

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## OPC Sponsors Two Documentaries Set in Afghanistan

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they attempt to understand and work effectively together in this monumental endeavor.

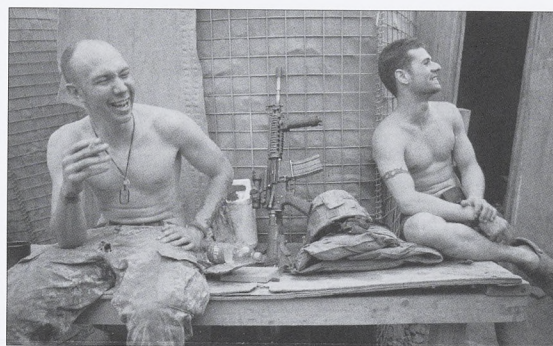
**The dates and times of *Camp Victory* are: Saturday, June 12 at 9:30 p.m.; Sunday, June 13 at 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, June 17 at 4 p.m.**

*Restrepo* is the winner of the Sundance Grand Jury Prize for Documentary and is the work of photographer/cinematographer Tim Hetherington and the acclaimed author Sebastian Junger. The film chronicles the deployment of a platoon of U.S. Marines in the Korengal Valley. Hetherington and Junger

hunker down in a remote 15 man outpost named after a platoon medic who was killed in action. This is an entirely experiential film — no interviews with generals or diplomats — this is war, full stop.

**The dates and times of *Restrepo* are: Friday, June 18 at 9:30 p.m.; Sunday, June 20 at 4 p.m.; Monday, June 21 at 4 p.m.**

The Film Festival screenings are at the Walter Reade Theater, 165 West 65 Street (between Broadway and Amsterdam) upper level. Tickets may be



Tim Hetherington

From left, Specialist Misha Pemble-Belkin and Ross Murphy of Battle Company, 173rd U.S. Airborne relax at Outpost Restrepo, the focus of *Restrepo*.

purchased at the Walter Reade box office or on the Human Rights Watch website [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org).

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# Back to Vietnam on the 35th Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon

by Edith M. Lederer

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam — A band of media veterans of the Vietnam War returned to old Saigon for their fourth reunion since the conflict ended 35 years ago, mixing nostalgia and war stories with sightseeing in the fast-modernizing city that now boasts a host of top designer boutiques like Cartier and Armani.

Many had silver hair and new wrinkles. A few walked with canes, but despite the passing years the curiosity and enthusiasm of the former reporters, photographers and TV correspondents was undiminished.

The reunion was tied to the April 30 anniversary of the fall of old Saigon in 1975 and began two days earlier with cocktails and dinner on the roof of the Majestic Hotel. Carl Robinson, who worked for AP during the war and organized the reunion with his wife Kim-Dung, said 70 people attended, including spouses, partners and guests.

At dinner, there was a toast to "absent friends," a list that grows longer as the years pass.

This year, the media veterans paid special tribute to Dutch photographer Hugh Van Es who took the most famous image of the fall of Saigon — a group of people scaling a ladder to a CIA helicopter on a rooftop — and died in May 2009. They also toasted AP's Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Horst Faas, who helped organize the 20th, 25th and 30th reunions but was unable to travel to this one on doctor's orders.

Day 2 began with a trip to the Cu Chi Tunnels which the Viet Cong dug to smuggle people and goods in from North Vietnam. Not too many of the "Old Hacks" slithered through the tunnels, which are truly claustrophobic not to mention the wear and tear on aging knees and hips. But they remain a visible reminder of the tenacity of the opponents of the United States and the South Vietnamese governments, and the hardships they were willing to endure.

There was a race to get back to Ho Chi Minh City through awful traffic to get to the Caravelle Hotel in time for a truly memorable evening featuring an exhibition of war photos, many provided by AP photographer Neal Ulevich. His display of headshots of many members of the Saigon press corps had the media veterans standing around trying to guess who those young faces were.

For the first time, the reunion participants were trailed by a group of young Vietnamese journalists. And for the first time, the Vietnamese government officially acknowledged our presence, inviting some of us to sit in the official reviewing stand at the April 30 Reunification Day Parade and hosting a dinner on May



At the opening reception on the roof of the Majestic Hotel from left: Perry Deane Young, Peter Arnett and George Hamilton.

1 with half a dozen media veterans who covered the war from the other side.

The reunion officially ended with a luncheon cruise along the Saigon River after the parade, past fast-rising modern apartment build-



Edie Lederer with a group of Vietnamese university students in a park in Ho Chi Minh City.



An art gallery reception on the Saigon River hosted by the Vietnamese government before the government-hosted dinner. Foreground right is former *Newsweek* photographer Richard Brummett; to his right is freelance reporter Don Kirk and Xuan Phuong. Across the table from Phuong are two Vietnamese reporters who covered the war from the other side.

ings and some dense foliage where the Viet Cong used to hide, and a farewell dinner at Maxim's Restaurant.

But the post-reunion dinner on May Day at a restaurant and art gallery on the river hosted by the Vietnamese government proved truly memorable because of the opportunity to meet our media counterparts from the North including Xuan Phuong, a former correspondent and producer with Vietnamese Television who worked clandestinely in the war that ousted the French colonialists in 1954 and then in what she called "the American war." She recalled staying underground at night in the late 1960s and early 1970s and coming up during the day to film.

Now 81 years old, Xuan owns an art gallery and runs an organization promoting art. As a sign of the change in U.S.-Vietnamese relations, she proudly told me that her grandson studied at the University of California at San Diego and was now attending New York University.

Journalists from both sides are "now in the same circle," Xuan said. "The past is away. Now we can raise a glass and say 'cheers' together."

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# Reporter Uncovers Setting of Islam on the Western Stage

## EVENT RECAP: MAY 11

by Rachel Manning

Ian Johnson, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for the *Wall Street Journal* and two-time OPC award winner, spoke about his new book, *A Mosque in Munich* on May 11 at the OPC.

David Andelman, OPC Board member and editor of *World Policy Journal*, introduced Johnson who began the discussion by drawing the parallels between the historical setting of his book and today. In both, he said, "the United States was in a global battle against an implacable foe, the prospects for success were considered bleak, unless you could somehow win the hearts and minds of the Muslim world." In this way, our present era reflects the presidency of Eisenhower. In the 1950s the United States realized that "Islam could be used to win over this new part of the world of growing importance, the newly independent countries of the so-called third world. This period is overlooked in our conversations about Islam...not as a direct link to the terror attacks of today" but in our discussions about tactics and instrumentalization of religious groups in contemporary foreign policy.

In a photo slideshow, Johnson described discovering the original question that propelled him on the five-year research and writing project that became the book: a map in a bookstore in London that charted the Muslim demographics of the world, surrounded by the greatest, or most famous, mosques. Among these pictures was a picture of the Islamic Center of Munich. He remembered thinking that this was odd. "Why would the Islamic Center of Munich, which is certainly not the biggest mosque in Germany...be among this pantheon of the world's great mosques?" As it turned out, the Islamic Center of Munich was the first overseas outpost of the Muslim Brotherhood, which was an essential organization to the foundation and proliferation of political Islam.

The book follows three central characters, Gerhard von Mende, a German linguist who was tied to the Nazi party; Robert Drayer, a CIA agent; and Said Ramadan, a radical academic of Islamic Law. Together these three men were central to the founding of the mosque in Munich, and to the history of the Muslim Brotherhood's presence in Europe. Von Mende was the designer of Nazi policy toward Muslim refugees, prisoners of war and refugees who were in Germany during and after World War II. He worked with former Soviet Muslims to create anti-Soviet propaganda until the CIA moved in on the project, founding Radio Free Europe under Amcomlib, the American Committee for Liberation from Bolshevism. Robert Drayer was active in the CIA and sponsored the work of von Mende and Ramadan in supporting anti-USSR efforts through the instrumentalization of political Islam.

The creation of the Islamic Center of Munich was a goal of von Mende's and Drayer, and Ramadan was asked to speak at the initial planning meeting. While some of the individuals involved were skeptical of his political leanings, others saw him as a "shining star of a rebirth of Islam" and fully



The author, Ian Johnson, flanked by OPC board members David Fondiller, left, and David A. Andelman who introduced Johnson.

supported a long-term political affiliation with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Johnson read an excerpt from the book that described Said Ramadan's time in Germany where he was completing his degree in law. The segment described his advisor, Professor Kegel's impressions of his student: "Ramadan was often abroad. At first, Kegel thought that he was just preparing his final move to Europe. But Ramadan kept his advisor well informed about his movements, sending letters and postcards from Geneva, Damascus and Jerusalem. Over time, the affable professor understood his student's goals more clearly: it wasn't law, it was revolution."

Ramadan's goals of proliferating political Islam found a home in the founding of the Islamic Center of Munich, and later as he partnered with the United States in anti-Soviet propaganda in the Middle East and in Europe.

Returning to his earlier references to the Eisenhower Administration, Johnson described a critical colloquium on Islam at Princeton University in 1973, when Ramadan and other members of the Muslim Brotherhood gathered to speak with Eisenhower about how they could contribute to U.S. foreign policy. A high-level official "recalled the high priority that Eisenhower gave to religion in his personal life and in geo-political strategy. The early discussions about using religion more effectively in global politics had already taken place," setting the stage for the White House to work with Ramadan, who was highly critical of communism based on its rejection of religion.

Wrapping up his talk, Johnson reminded the audience of the critical role that the Muslim Brotherhood plays in the current political climate. Both the Bush and the Obama Administrations have forged connections with the Muslim Brotherhood, which is one of the largest civil society organizations in Egypt and Syria.

A lively question and answer period followed the talk, in which audience members queried Johnson on topics from historical clarifications from the book to the lessons and parallels that can be drawn from his research, and how to apply them to contemporary issues. A book signing took place after the event, which was co-sponsored by the South Asian Journalist Association.





## PEOPLE... with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

**MURDERS:** Two days after he was kidnapped, the mutilated body of **Ghulam Rasool Birhamani** was found May 12 in a field near the village of Wahipandhi in Sindh Province, Pakistan. A reporter for the local daily *Sindh*, Birhamani's body bore marks of torture including fatal wounds to his head. **Shamsul Islam Naz**, secretary-general of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, said, "He was killed because the influential persons of the area did not like his reporting on women's rights and the empowerment of women"



Hundreds protested the killing of Osman.

The body of Kurdish journalist **Zardasht Osman**, 23, was found on a highway May 6 with two bullet wounds in his head in Erbil, capital of the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region of Iraq. He had been abducted two days earlier by men in a minibus immediately after his brother dropped him off at the University of Salahaddin, where he was to graduate in June with a degree in English. Osman's family and friends said he was killed because of his scathing articles on the region's two governing parties and its leaders. Hundreds of university students protesting the murder scuffled with riot police when they tried to storm the local parliament building, some of them blaming security and intelligence forces at being behind the murder. Under the pseudonym **Saro Zardasht**, Osman had been writing for almost two years for the Sweden-based *Kurdistanpost* and more recently for *Samal Post*, a magazine in Erbil, and the independent newspaper

*Hawati* in the region's other main city Sulaimaniya.

**Sheikh Nur Mohamed Abkey**, 52, a journalist with the Somali government-run Radio Mogadishu, was murdered May 4 after he was abducted by hooded gunmen that morning while walking through a Mogadishu market. BBC said the station's senior editor received a telephone call from the abductors saying they had Abkey and planned to kill him. Later near sunset a second call reported that the journalist had been killed. It was believed that Abkey was murdered by Islamist insurgents because the radio station he worked for was a strong critic of the insurgent groups Al-Shabab and Hizbul Islam.

Two broadcasters were murdered in Honduras in April, bringing to seven the number of journalists killed in that country in just six weeks. In the latest slayings, **Jorge Alberto Orellana**, host of a program on the private Television de Honduras station in San Pedro Sula, was leaving his office after his show April 20 when he was shot in the head by a man who fled on foot. On April 13, **Luis Antonio Chévez Hernández**, a presenter on Radio W105, was killed in the same city when he was ambushed by several persons in a car while leaving a nightclub with his cousin and friends.

**BAKU, Azerbaijan:** The European Court of Human Rights in Vienna ordered Azerbaijan to release **Eynulla Fatullayev**, founder and editor-in-chief of the newspapers *Gündalik Azarbaycan* and *Realny Azerbaijan*. In its 6-1 ruling in April, the court also ordered Azerbaijan's government to pay the journalist 27,882 Euros (then about US\$36,691) in damages and expenses. **Eynulla Fatullayev** But he was still being held on a drug charge. Tatullayev



Eynulla Fatullayev

was imprisoned in 2007 on charges of criminal defamation and "fomenting terrorism" in articles he had written. The court ruled that imprisonment violated Fatullayev's rights and restricted his freedom of expression.

**BANGKOK:** At least 36 people including a news photographer were killed during street fighting between Red Shirt rebels and government forces in May. Freelance Italian photographer **Fabio Polenghi**, 48, died from a bullet wound in the stomach before arriving at a hospital.

His body was cremated at a Buddhist temple in Thailand. Fabio's work has appeared in *Vanity Fair*, *Vogue*, *Marie Claire* and *Elle*. Several other correspondents were wounded during the street clashes. **Michel Maas**, a Dutch reporter for Netherlands Radio Worldwide and the Netherlands newspaper *Volkskrant*, was shot in the shoulder. **Nelson Rand**, a Canadian working for broadcaster France 24, was shot in the leg, abdomen and wrist. Two Thai journalists, a reporter for the newspaper *Matichon* and a cameraman with Voice TV, were injured.

*New York Times* correspondent **Thomas Fuller** was interviewing Major General Khattiya Sawatdiphol, who was allied with anti-government Red Shirt protesters, around 7 p.m. May 13 when the general was shot in the head by an unidentified sniper and critically wounded. When the shot was fired, Fuller was facing the general about two feet away on a downtown Bangkok street near a subway station. The renegade Thai army officer died four days later. Sawatdiphol was shot after the government warned it would shoot "terrorists" in its latest effort to end the two-month-long siege by thousands of Red Shirts.

**CARACAS:** The Venezuelan government has ordered the closure of 34 radio stations in its latest move to

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silence its media critics. German state radio Deutsche Welle reported I May that Diosdado Cabello, Venezuela's minister of public works, called the decision to close the stations part of "a new phase of information" and part of the government's effort to "democratize the airwaves." According to Cabello, the closures are a response to the stations' failures to meet legal operating requirements. He warned that more closures may follow. The decision to shut down the 34 stations came one day after Luisa Ortega Diaz, Venezuela's top prosecutor, suggested toughening the country's media law to "regulate the freedom of expression." An estimated 240 radio stations are said to be under investigation, 40 percent of Venezuela's broadcasters.

**CHICAGO:** **Al Balk**, a longtime OPC member and former Club officer, has donated his career papers to the Newberry Library in Chicago. The papers include OPC board minutes, correspondence and *OPC Bulletin* articles including one dated March 1, 1979 on the Club's move to the Chemist Club. When he was editor/publisher of *World Press Review* and an OPC board member, Al arranged for attorney Martin Kminsky pro bono to terminate the OPC lease with the failing Biltmore Hotel. Al then served as chair in selling the Club's surplus furnishings. Balk now lives in Huntley, Illinois and is undergoing chemotherapy for colon cancer.

**COLOMBO:** The president of Sri Lanka on May 3 pardoned Tamil editor **J. S. Tissainayagam**, who was sentenced last year to 20 years in prison on conviction of "supporting terrorism" and "inciting communal disharmony." Tissainayagam, editor of the *North Eastern Monthly* magazine and a columnist for the *Sunday Times* in Colombo, was arrested in March 2008 for articles criticizing the Sri Lankan government's military action against Tamil Tiger rebels. He was the first journalist to be charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The government official who announced the pardon said the editor was freed to mark World Press Freedom Day.

**FAIRFIELD, Connecticut:** This correspondent turned 90 in June with three gifts: the care of his wife **Diana** after two heart attacks and a mini-stroke; working with a congenial and innovative editor, the *Bulletin's* **Aimee Vitrak**; and lucky to have been a foreign correspondent. [Editor's note: a happy birthday and enduring gratitude to our stalwart correspondent in the OPC's Connecticut bureau.]

**HONG KONG:** The display wall in the main bar at the Foreign Correspondents Club has been named The Van Es Wall in honor of **Hugh van Es**, the Dutch news photographer who worked out of Hong Kong for years. Hugh, who died last year, made one of the most widely published photos of the Vietnam War, refugees climbing aboard a helicopter atop a Saigon building on the day in 1975 when North Vietnamese troops entered the city.

**KACHA PAKHA, Pakistan:** Two suicide bombs exploded within minutes of each other in a refugee camp April 17, killing at least 41 people including **Azmat Ali Bangash**, a part-time correspondent for the Associated Press of Pakistan and Pakistan TV. Bangash was in the camp in the Northwest Frontier Province covering distribution of food to the refugees. A branch of the Punjabi Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

**KIEV, Ukraine:** In a May 10 letter to Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovich, **Jacqueline Albert Simon** and **Kevin McDermott** of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee, wrote "to voice our dismay and rising anxiety over recent attacks on members of Ukraine's vibrant media." They cited several incidents. While on his way home March 23, **Vasyi Demyanly**, editor of *Kolomoysky Visnyk*, was attacked by strangers who hit him on the head with a heavy object, fracturing his skull, and then pushed him to the ground and repeatedly kicked him. He had criticized government officials in his twice-weekly newspaper. Police arrested **Andriy Vey**, director of *Express* newspaper, April 12 on charges of tax evasion which Vey claimed were fabricated. When reporters went to the police

station to object to the arrest, they were beaten and their cameras smashed. Blogger **Olena Bilozerska** said police raided her home in early April, searching for information about demonstrators she had covered at a rally

**KOHAT, Pakistan:** Journalist **Asad Qureshi**, who was kidnapped in April by a group calling itself the Asian Tigers, has been turned over to a third party negotiating team. Qureshi, a British documentary film-maker of Pakistani origin, was traveling with two former officers of Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence in the restive North Western Frontier Province to interview Taliban leaders when they were captured. One officer also was handed to negotiators. The body of the other officer was found April 30 with a note saying he was killed because of his links to the CIA and his role in a 2007 bloody standoff between extremists and Pakistani government forces.

#### NEW YORK:

The OPC is rarely mentioned in the national media except in the obituaries of prominent members. But *The New Yorker* published a one-column-plus article in its



April 19 "Talk of the Town" section about the Club's March 3 Tchotchkes Night in the New York City apartment of board member **Minky Worden** and her husband **Gordon Crovitz**. Headlined "DEPT. OF SOUVENIRS SHOW-AND-TELL," the article by **Ben McGrath** started: "Alan Dodds Frank, the president of the Overseas Press Club of America, stood before several dozen foreign correspondents in a penthouse apartment high above Nassau Street recently and held up a gnarled two-foot-long stick. 'I don't think we're going to have to gong anybody, but if we do, does anybody know what this is?' he asked 'Penis bone' someone called out. [Frank replied] 'Yeah, it's a walrus penis.'" ♦



*Newsweek's* operating losses last year totaled \$28.1 million and \$15.4 million the previous year. So The Washington Post Company announced on May 5 that it would sell the magazine, which it bought in 1961, and here is what people said. **Donald Graham**, chairman and CEO of The Washington Post Company, "*Newsweek's* staff has been remarkable in cutting expenses and putting out a great magazine. But we did not see a path to sustained profitability within the company." **Jon Meacham**, *Newsweek* editor and an OPC member, "In the sense that we are all in an existential crisis, it is not what I would call a stunning decision [to sell the magazine]...

I decline to accept that *Newsweek* in some form does not have a role to play going forward."

**Edward Kossner**, *Newsweek* editor in the late 1970s,

"Those magazines had much more stature in those days. It was really important what was on the cover of *Newsweek* and what was on the cover of *Time* because it was what passed for the national press. They helped set the agenda; they helped make reputations."

**Reed Phillips**, managing partner at DeSilva & Phillips, a media investment banking firm, "Just as the mass circulation magazines of the 1960s could not survive competition from television, the news magazines are not faring well in competition with the Internet." **Charles Whitaker**, research chairman in magazine journalism at Northwestern University School of Journalism, "I don't think *Time* and *Newsweek* in this transformation [redesign], had enough of a distinct voice to capture the fancy of anyone in this incredibly polarized political environment." **Richard Stengel**, managing editor of *Time*, "Our audience is bigger than the cable audiences. What we have embraced is point-of-view journalism. [*Time* was] very profitable last year, and we will be even more profitable this year."

**OMAHA:** **John Hlavacek**, who has covered news around the world, was inducted into the Omaha Press Club's



Jon Meacham

Hall of Fame at a dinner ceremony in April. From 1944 to 1957, Hlavacek was a United Press war correspondent in China and later bureau chief in India. He later reported from Jamaica, Cuba, Vietnam, Eastern Europe and Africa for NBC News and *Time-Life*. Hlavacek, now 92, lives in Omaha. Three local reporters also were inducted into the Hall of Fame including **Dave Hamer**, whose assignments for Omaha TV stations took him to 10 foreign countries and the Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars. The awards announcement contained the initials "OPC" for Omaha Press Club, but some readers thought it meant Overseas Press Club. Reciprocal relations unite the two OPCs.

**ORISSA, India:** The International Press Institute (IPI) reported several recent attacks against journalists in Orissa, a state in eastern India. **Biranjan Mallick**, who works for the newspaper *Khabar*, was tied to a tree and beaten by attackers May 6 after he wrote a report on financial irregularities in a government-funded assistance program. On May 8, several members of a paramilitary force in Angul attacked several journalists as they attempted to cover the beating of a local truck driver who had run over the daughter of one of the assailants. **Chandrakanta Das**, a reporter for the daily *Dharitri*, was assaulted April 29 because he had reported on a robbery. A group of journalists were attacked April 27 when they were covering the death of a student, allegedly due to food poisoning. IPI Director **David Dodge** said, "We call on the authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice and to end the growing trend of violence against journalists in Orissa."

**SARAJEVO:** The city of Sarajevo has bestowed honorary citizenship on **Roy Gutman** for his reporting on ethnic cleansing of Bosnia by Serbs during the 1992 to 1995 war. Gutman is an OPC member and OPC award winner. Sarajevo Mayor Alija Behman presented Roy with the key to the city



Gutman, right, accepts the award.

at a televised ceremony in the Bosnian capital on April 6, the 65th anniversary of the city's World War II liberation. Gutman's war coverage won the OPC Hal Boyle award, a Pulitzer Prize and a George Polk Award. During the war, Gutman was *Newsday's* European correspondent. He now is foreign editor in the Washington bureau of McClatchy newspapers.

**TOKYO:** Killed by a sniper's bullet through the chest April 10 during Bangkok street fighting, the life and death of Reuters cameraman **Hiroyuki Muramoto**, 43, was the subject of the cover article in the May issue of *Number 1 Shimbun*, the magazine of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan. **Rodney Joyce**, Reuters Tokyo bureau chief, wrote: "Hiro was not the gung-ho war correspondent of the movies. He was a careful, loving married dad of two and a gentle mentor for young colleagues... At Reuters for more than a decade and a half, Hiro was witness to many of



Hiroyuki Muramoto

Asia's biggest stories." **Monzurul Huq**, FCCJ president, wrote: "Hiro was an experienced cameraman who knew perfectly well from which angle shots should be taken to catch the pulse of the situation better. During his last official assignment in Bangkok, he was seen running with fleeing protestors and also catching glimpses of the police trying to force the protestors out of a downtown area. He was obviously aware of the risk that he was taking by filming so close [to] the scenes of violence." TV colleague **Dan Sloan**: "He visualized the finished product while shooting – how it would flow from shot to shot to make a better story." Reuters obituary: "Seven minutes of film taken by Reuters cameraman Hiro Muramoto illustrate how a scrappy street protest turned deadly on a balmy Bangkok night."

**VIENNA:** Mexican journalist and author **Lydia Cacho Ribeiro** was

(Continued on Page 8)



(Continued From Page 7)

named a World Press Freedom Hero by the International Press Institute (IPI) in April for "her unflinching courage in facing up to powerful politicians by exposing an evil ring exploiting child pornography and the prostitution of young girls." Cacho wrote articles about the prostitution of Cuban and Argentine girls in Mexico and the sexual abuse of minors for the newspapers *Novedades de Cancún* and *Por Esto*. In a 2005 book, Cacho charged that Mexican businessmen and politicians were involved in a child pornography ring operating in Cancún and the United States. A businessman mentioned in the book sued her for criminal defamation. Later she claimed that police shoved her into a van, drove her 950 miles and threatened that she would be killed or raped. She was later released. Police denied the allegations.



Lydia Cacho  
Ribeiro

The IPI also named the late South African editor **Laurence Gandar** as a World Press Freedom Hero. Editor of the *Rand Daily Mail* in Johannesburg from 1957 to 1969, Gandar led the newspaper in its opposition to apartheid, introduced investigative reporting in South Africa, and reported the effects of apartheid and the jailing of black activists when these issues were largely ignored by the mainstream media. IPI Director **David Dudge** said, "While under enormous pressure from the South African government and its security services, Laurence Gandar told the appalling story of the apartheid period in South Africa." Gandar died in 1998 at age 83 after seeing the end of apartheid.

**WASHINGTON:** President Obama on May 17 signed into law the **Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act** that requires the U.S. State Department to compile a public list of foreign governments that violate press freedom. Obama said the measure will send a strong message that Washington was

paying attention to the way foreign governments treat the media. "The loss of Daniel Pearl was one of those moments that captured the world's imagination because it reminded us how valuable a free press is," the President said. "This legislation, in a very modest way, puts us clearly on the side of journalistic freedom."

The OPC applauded the Daniel Pearl Act. In a letter to President Obama, **Jacqueline Albert Simon** and **Larry Martz** of the Freedom of the Press Committee wrote, "For more than seventy years, the OPC has objected to government abuses of press freedom through letters to leaders, appropriate cabinet officers, and chiefs of police. In recent years, we have received increasing numbers of responses, indicating that political leaders are aware of how quickly such actions damage their country's global image. Such a public gesture as your signature to the Daniel Pearl Act, making it a law, lends increased authority to our efforts and those of fellow organizations to aid our colleagues in distress, in prison or otherwise."

Pearl, 38, a *Wall Street Journal* correspondent, was beheaded by militants in Pakistan in 2002 while working on a story about radical Islamist groups. Obama was joined for the signing ceremony by Pearl's widow **Mariane**, an honorary member of the OPC who now lives in Paris; the couple's seven-year-old son **Adam**; and the correspondent's parents, **Ruth** and **Judea Pearl**, a professor of Computer Science and Statistics and director of the Cognitive Systems Laboratory at the University of California, Los Angeles.



President Obama signs the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act as Pearl's widow, Mariane, their son Adam, Danny's parents and others look on.

The International Women's Media Foundation will honor three women journalists with its 2010 Courage in Journalism Awards at ceremonies in New York City and Los Angeles in October. They are **Claudia Duque**, 39, an investigative correspondent with Radio Nizkor in Colombia who has been robbed, kidnapped and threatened with death while reporting child trafficking, infiltration of paramilitary groups into Colombian state institutions and human rights violations; **Tsering Woeser**, 43, a Beijing-based Tibetan freelance writer who has contributed to Radio Free Asia and who has been under constant scrutiny by Chinese authorities and placed under house arrest while reporting on human rights abuses in Tibet; and **Vicky Ntetema**, 51, a freelance Tanzanian reporter who has contributed to BBC World Service and who has received death threats for investigating witch doctors who kill albinos and their families and then sell good-fortune potions made from their hair, legs and arms.

The Foundation also will present its lifetime Achievement Award to **Alma Guillermoprieto**, 60, a Mexican journalist who has covered war, rebels and mass killings in Latin America. She has contributed to *The Guardian*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Newsweek* and *The New Yorker*.



Alma Guillermoprieto

#### PEOPLE REMEMBERED

**Peter John Maitland**, 80, a former journalist in Canada and New York, died May 24 in Kingston, Ontario.

Born in Bowmanville, Ontario, Maitland was a reporter for British United Press and Canadian Press and a writer for Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, working in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and New York City.

He later worked in public relations at Ontario Hydro until retiring



in 1987. Maitland was part owner of the *Lindsay Watchman-Warder*, Ontario's oldest weekly.



OPC member **Laura Pilarski**, 83, a McGraw Hill World News correspondent in Switzerland, died in Zurich May 1 following several strokes. Growing up in Niagara Falls, New York, Pilarski worked as a teenage reporter for the *Niagara Falls Gazette*. She joined the *Milwaukee Journal* in 1949 after graduating from Syracuse University. One of her favorite topics was Milwaukee's substantial Polish population. She visited Poland twice, once with the first post-war group of Wisconsin Poles and later as leader of a group of young people under the Experiment in International Living program.

Leaving Wisconsin in 1961, Pilarski studied at the University of

Warsaw and reported on Polish affairs for several U.S. publications until she was ordered out of Poland in 1963, no official reason given. She moved to Zurich and in 1965 became McGraw Hill's chief correspondent in Switzerland.

Following a visit to the foreign ministry, Pilarski was "rehabilitated" by Warsaw and visited Poland several times. She retired in 1988 but continued to report for several McGraw Hill publications as a freelancer until taking ill in February. Pilarski wrote two books, *They Came from Poland* about famous Poles in America, and *Tibet-Heart of Asia*, a short history of Tibet that resulted from her contacts with the large Tibetan settlement in Switzerland.



**Albert Ravenholt**, 90, a longtime correspondent in Asia, died April 25. In



**Albert Ravenholt, left, interviews Gen. Claire Chennault, of "Flying Tigers" fame.**

the early days of World War II, 1941 and 1942, Ravenholt served as a convoy leader for trucks of the International Red Cross transporting medical supplies to China on the Burma Road. In 1942 he joined United Press as a war correspondent reporting from China, India and Burma. After the war, Al became UP's Manila bureau chief, and from 1948 to 1978 he covered Southeast Asia for the *Chicago Daily News*. Ravenholt, who was born in Wisconsin, also served as a member of the American Universities Field Staff in Southeast Asia.

### **Saigon Reunion** (Continued From Page 3)

For the Western media veterans, lots of glasses were hoisted, and lots of war stories recounted. There was even a celebrity guest, actor George Hamilton, a close friend of war photographer Sean Flynn — son of Hollywood star Errol Flynn — who went missing in Cambodia in 1970.

Hamilton and former UPI reporter Perry Deane Young, also a friend of Flynn's, came to Ho Chi Minh City from Cambodia where they attended a reunion of war correspondents and a memorial tribute to the dozens of reporters, photographers and cameramen who died covering the five-year conflict there, which ended in 1975 with the takeover by the brutal Khmer Rouge.

The "Old Hacks" were prime story material for the young Vietnamese journalists, starting with a feature on Carl and Kim Dung's love story, interviews with Pulitzer Prize winners Peter Arnett and Nick Ut, and a feature on AP's Edie Lederer, the only female war correspondent at the reunion. The most moving story was a front-page piece on the visit by Russell Burrows and his family to the now grown-up girl on crutches whom his late father, Larry Burrows, had photographed during the war.

"I think it's important psychologically to come back," Robinson said. "It's just an amazing place. This reunion has been more magical, and you just want to keep doing it."

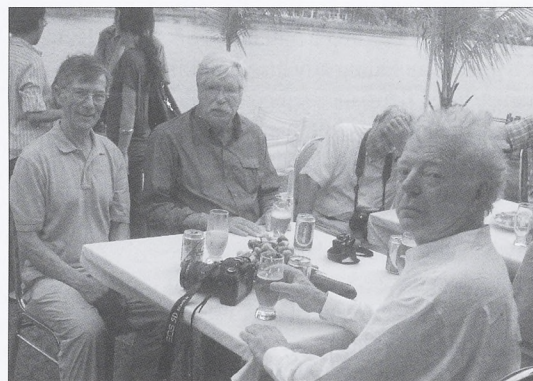
Former ABC-TV correspondent Don North called the media veterans of Vietnam "one of the most exclusive clubs in the world" because members covered a story "that was the defining event of our generation."

"Being a reporter in Vietnam was probably the best thing I will do in this life," he said.

Simon Dring, who worked for Reuters, Britain's *Daily Telegraph* and the BBC, said returning was "a bit of a trip down memory lane."

"There's got to be a little nostalgia. But we have to keep looking forward," he said. "It gives you a chance to look at Vietnam through new eyes, not just through memories of the '60s."

For Al Rockoff, who was a soldier in Vietnam and Cambodia and returned as a freelance photographer, the reunion was a good time "to reconnect with people you don't see so often."



Edith M. Lederer

**At the reception with Vietnamese journalists, from left are all former UPI journalists in Saigon: Tom Chetham, Steve Northup and Ray Wilkinson. Next to Northup with the camera is AP photographer Neal Ulevich.**

Former *Time* magazine photographer Tim Page echoed Rockoff, saying "I think we come back because of our friends, more than the war itself. I'm an obsessive. Vietnam's my second home, or is it Cambodia that's my second home? I don't know."

Will there be another reunion?

"There was talk that this was the last reunion," Arnett said. "Rubbish! They're still doing D-Day reunions and that took place 30 years before the fall of Saigon. I will come as long as I'm still alive."



# Setting the Record Straight on the Japanese Economy

by Eamonn Fingleton

*Tokyo correspondents held a reunion at the OPC in March at which I was a speaker, and, as the Number 1 Shimbun has reported, I was less than flattering about recent coverage of Japan. On the principle that it is as well to be hanged for a sheep as a lamb, I offer more detail:*

## **MYTH 1: Japanese consumers are on strike**

All talk of a consumer strike to the contrary, Japan's consumption rate has actually risen over the years. This is implicit in the fact that the household savings rate fell from 15.3 percent in 1989 to 3.1 percent in 2007. Savings and consumption are, of course, opposite sides of the same coin; other things being equal, every yen by which the savings rate falls is an extra yen of consumption.

If Japanese consumers were really on strike, sales of consumer durables would surely be hit. Yet the Japanese have consistently been among the world's earliest adopters of succeeding generations of such goods, including advanced mobile phones, large flat-panel screens, high-definition video, laptop computers, and digital cameras. They are also buying far larger and better equipped cars these days.

Meanwhile Paris-based fashion arbiter Suzy Menkes says the Japanese are the world's best dressed people. Thanks to increasing consumption of ever more sophisticated healthcare services, they have added nearly two years to their life expectancy since the 1980s. Then there is the Japanese approach to food. If Japanese diners are really such scrooges, how could Tokyo have 11 Michelin three-star restaurants, versus four in New York?

## **MYTH 2: The Japanese economy has suffered a "deflation disaster"**

There has been deflation but it has not been a disaster. All but forgotten these days, there is more than one kind of deflation. The true precedent for Japan's current price pattern is not the 1930s, but rather the 1880s and 1890s -- decades when the U.S. went from a rural backwater to the world's most successful economy. The trend was driven by a huge productivity leap in the steel industry. A resulting 90 percent cut in steel prices rippled through other industries and pre-

cipitated widespread cuts in consumer prices. Japan's falling prices are similarly driven by a huge leap in manufacturing productivity, particularly in the fundamental materials, components, and capital equipment driving the digital revolution. In key categories -- silicon wafers, laser diodes, and so-called LCD steppers, for instance -- Japan is so efficient that it has become the world's dominant or even sole supplier.

## **MYTH 3: The Japanese employment system is breaking down**

This story has been a mainstay of misinformed Japan coverage since the 1960s. Of course it seems to make sense: Once one employer reneged on lifetime employment, rival employers would surely follow.

Correspondents, however, make a crucial mistake in taking the term "lifetime employment" literally. There has never been a time when the general run of jobs was guaranteed for life. The system has always been based on what scholar Ronald Dore has termed "flexible rigidities." Although the system aims to provide stable employment, employers can and do lay off workers in the face of, for instance, permanent changes in demand.

Lately we have heard much about temporary workers. Supposedly they are a new factor but, as recorded by the author Mamoru Iga, they were already common in the boom year of 1986. Even in those days no more than 20 percent of workers enjoyed full long-term job security.

Of course, a question remains: why don't Japanese employers cut loose from all "rigidities" and embrace Anglo-American hire-and-fire? Even in recessions, solvent employers are under regulatory pressure to avoid mass firings and if they pressed ahead they would be cut out of the loop on, for instance, lucrative government contracts. Japanese executives avoid discussing Japan's stable employment system because any frank explanation might provoke demands from governments and labor unions abroad for similarly stable employment in corporate Japan's foreign subsidiaries.

## **Myth 4: An aging Japan is facing a demographic disaster**

A large part of the aging "problem" is simply that the Japanese are living longer. In the past six decades, Japanese have

increased their life expectancy at birth by nearly 30 years and now outlive Americans by five years.

Japan's low birthrate is not a problem but a solution. The Eugenic Protection Act of the late 1940s legalized abortion on demand and promoted sterilization and other forms of birth control to counter the overpopulation problem which plagued Japan in the 1930s. Today's low birthrate is not without disadvantages and certainly there will be a dearth of worker-age Japanese citizens in coming decades. But corporate Japan's hiring catchment area is hardly limited these days to the home population.

## **Myth 5: Japan's government finances are out of control**

As officially stated, Japan's ratio of public debt to GDP is one of the world's highest. It does not follow, however, that the government's finances are out of control. Much borrowing is applied to investment rather than consumption. Thus Tokyo is the largest holder of U.S. Treasury bonds. Basically it is borrowing from Japanese savers to finance overconsumption in the United States. If Japan's debts really spooked financial markets, Japanese interest rates would long ago have rocketed. In reality they remain among the world's lowest.

## **Myth 6: The Japanese government builds a lot of "bridges to nowhere"**

Actually as one of the world's most densely populated nations, Japan suffers a general shortage of roads and bridges. Thus new roads and bridges virtually anywhere serve a useful purpose in relieving the pressure on existing extremely jammed infrastructure. The bridges-to-nowhere story got started when a British magazine in 1998 wrote about the opening of the magnificent Akashi Kaikyo bridge, but it failed to notice that the bridge forms one of only two road crossings between Honshu and Shikoku. The 4.1 million residents of Shikoku don't think they live "nowhere."

*Eamonn Fingleton is an OPC member and the author most recently of In the Jaws of the Dragon: America's Fate in the Coming Era of Chinese Hegemony (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2008).*



# A Falling Barometer for Press Freedom in Latin America

by Kevin McDermott

Every year journalists around the world mark May 3rd as World Press Freedom Day. For the Overseas Press Club of America, however, it's always World Press Freedom Day. How a nation treats its journalists is an excellent barometer of the health of its democracy. In hopeful moments we imagine that the barometer's long-term forecast is sunny. But we live in the real world and know things can darken for our colleagues in remarkably short periods of time.

There's no better example than Latin America, which entered the 21st Century looking as if it had finally shed its tradition of authoritarianism and civil upheaval. Then in the early 2000s the Overseas Press Club's Freedom of the Press Committee found itself regularly sounding the alarm on behalf of Mexican journalists. That work turned out to be an early warning for what has happened ten years later, when Mexico has become one of the most dangerous countries in the world to be a journalist.

Violence and drug-related gang warfare have made life for Mexican reporters more like working in a permanent war zone than reporting from one of the world's established democracies. Only last week the committee extended its ongoing conversation with Mexican President Felipe Calderon about the threats to our colleagues there. So far in 2010 five Mexican journalists have been murdered. Two others have disappeared (one of them possibly at the hands of Mexican police). One of the most recent murder victims, Enrique Villicaña Palomares of La Voz de Michoacan, was found with his throat cut in Morelia, five days after he was reported kidnapped. The Michoacán State Justice Department failed to take any action after being notified that threats had been made against Villicaña.

As the Overseas Press Club told President Calderon, if the reports of inaction are true then such indifference is inexcusable in a democratic society — especially since the threats against Villicaña were made just days after another Michoacán journalist, Ramon Angeles Zalpa of Cambio de Michoacán, went missing. Angeles has not been heard from since.

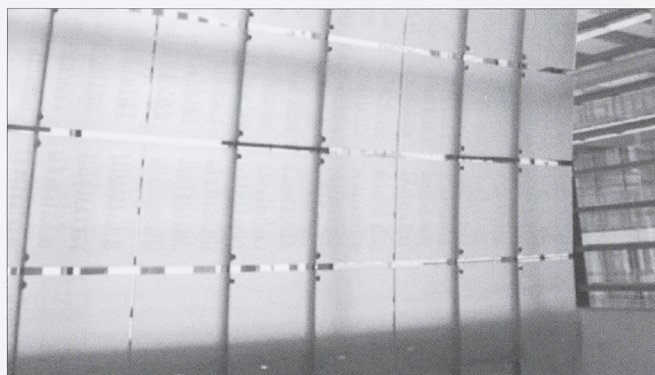
"When journalists are killed for doing their jobs," we told President Calderon, "the result is self-censorship by other journalists and the loss of information that is vital to any democracy."

President Calderon can at least be counted as an ally of democratic institutions. In Honduras, by contrast, it is now very dangerous to report news and opinion in opposition to the government of Porfirio Lobo Sosa, who was elected president in January after the previous government was dissolved at gunpoint last June.

The month of March was a catastrophic one for our Honduran colleagues, with a total of five reporters murdered that month alone. Two more were murdered in April. No arrests have been made in any of these cases. All the murdered share in common a history of publishing and broadcasting that put them at odds with the president's party or its friends.

The speedy unraveling of a previously freewheeling press in Honduras is shocking to witness. According to our associates at ARTICLE 19, these attacks on Honduran journalists are of a piece with other assaults on human-rights and opposition activists since the middle of 2009.

In Venezuela, by contrast, President Hugo Chavez relies less



The Newseum created a Journalists Memorial bearing the names of journalists who have died in the line of duty. See the online version at: <http://tinyurl.com/b8mfxx>

on brutality and more on bureaucratic and political intimidation. Since taking office in 1999 Chavez has taken one step after another to repress Venezuela's once-thriving free press, notably when he took RCTV, Venezuela's oldest TV station, off the air in 2007 and awarded its channels to a public TV station that could be counted on to speak for the government. Since then he has kept up a steady stream of "administrative proceedings" against Globovision, Venezuela's most important commercial broadcaster. Last August the Chavez government abruptly shut down 34 radio stations without warning for failing to keep their paperwork up to date with the Ministry for Public Works and Housing.

One may grow hardened to the abuse — often horrifying — of journalists in Russia and China. Threatening troublesome reporters is what they do there, and have done for a long time. But Latin Americans have recent memories of good reporters doing work essential to the cultivation of democratic cultures, which is why it makes one angry to witness the rapid transition to open hostility in countries like Mexico, Honduras and Venezuela. The presidents of Ecuador and Bolivia are following Chavez's example and treating the press as the enemy, with the same sort of bureaucratic and legalistic attacks.

The work of any nation's courageous journalists should be more than protected. It should be celebrated as the cornerstone of civil society, and not just one day a year.

## New Books: *(Continued From Page 12)*

Cosby and her father went to Warsaw last November, his first visit there in 65 years, and he received an award from the president of Poland. Senator John McCain, who was a POW during the Vietnam War, wrote in a blurb, "Rita's story is one that will touch every family... A loving poignant tribute to her POW father and freedom." Cosby is donating proceeds from her book to the USO and two museums in Poland — a museum of the history of Polish Jews, erected where the Warsaw ghetto once stood, and the Warsaw Rising Museum. Cosby, an Emmy winner, is a correspondent on CBS's "Inside Edition."

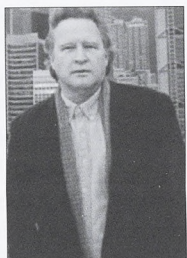
— by Al Kaff



# New Books

## ASIA – AMERICA

**D**URING THE PAST FIVE YEARS, the United States has spent \$10 to \$15 billion each month on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to **Peter G. de Krassel**. China has spent the same amount of money on education, developing new technologies and building state-of-the infrastructures relevant to the 21st Century. OPC member de Krassel, an international lawyer who has represented American and Chinese business interests while living in Hong Kong, Manila and Shanghai, writes about the two nations in *Feasting Dragon, Starving Eagle: How China Feeds on Washington and Wall Street Policy Mistakes and What We Must Do About It* [Hong Kong: CAL Books]. The publisher describes the book, “An analysis of how America, through its misguided and bankrupt economic, financial and foreign policies and alliances, has allowed China and its citizens to prosper at the expense and suffering of

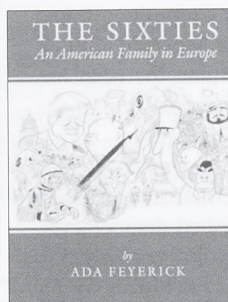


Peter de Krassel

Americans, who are picking up most of the global economic rehabilitations tab.”

## EUROPE

**“THE BOOK *THE SIXTIES* IS A** personal and political recollection of a decade that many believe was a turning point for America.” That is how **Ada Feyerick** describes her latest book, *The Sixties. An American Family in Europe* [Short Hills, New Jersey: Academia Books]. A former history-archeology editor of *Horizon Magazine*, OPC member Ada and her family lived in Zurich for two years and the Paris suburb of Neuilly-sur-Seine for four years. The author wrote to the *Bulletin*, “The focus of the book being the major events that were happening, especially in America and their impact on the rest of the world (Vietnam War, civil rights political assassinations, the cold war). Intertwined is raising a family... The main players during our sojourn were Lyndon Johnson and Charles de Gaulle. In France, the Six-Day War in 1967 and de Gaulle’s shift of alliance to the Arab world changed the dynamics of the Middle East, while the 1968 strikes in Paris almost brought down the government.” The book is



illustrated with 25 cartoons from the United States, France, England and Lebanon. Ada explained, “Rather than using familiar photographs that appeared in the media during the sixties, political cartoons from various countries were chosen to give a different, local view of events.”

**H**ER FATHER LEFT POLAND after World War II, but his daughter knew little about his past. Scars were all over his body, but he refused to talk about what had happened to him. When she was a teenager, her father divorced her mother, and he left the family. Years later, his daughter, **Rita Cosby**, found a worn suitcase filled with mementos including a worn Polish Resistance armband, a rusted tag bearing a prisoner’s number and a POW identity card. Cosby, an OPC member, finally persuaded her father to talk about his WWII experiences, and she wrote his story in *Quiet Hero: Secrets From My Father’s Past* [New York: Simon & Schuster]. Her father was a Polish Resistance fighter in Warsaw who was captured by the Nazis, escaped from a German POW camp and rescued by U.S. forces.



(Continued on Page 11)

**Coming Up...**

**Jim Michaels Book Night**  
**A Chance in Hell**  
June 15 at 6 p.m.  
Club Quarters

**HRW Film Festival**  
**Camp Victory and Restrepo**  
June 12 – 21

See page 1 for show time details

Overseas Press Club of America  
40 West 45 Street  
New York, NY 10036 USA